

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

DO NOT ENTER: /J.P./

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1. (Currently amended) A reclosable bag having a reclosable zipper and a top seal which is formed by sealing opposed wall portions of the bag ~~together~~ directly to each other and is openable to gain access to the zipper, the bag having an elongate tear element which extends through a portion of the top seal to protrude from the top of the bag and which can be grasped and pulled to open the top seal and enable access to be gained to the reclosable zipper.
2. (Previously presented) A bag according to claim 1, in which the tear element is attached to the zipper.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) A bag according to claim 1, in which the tear element is coated with a peel seal material.
5. (Previously Presented) A bag according to claim 1, in which the tear element comprises a strip, tape or string.
6. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a bag according to claim 1, in which zippers are applied transversely at spaced intervals to a web of film material, lengths of elongate tear element are attached to the zippers, tail portions of the lengths of elongate element are positioned to lie within the area where the top seal is intended to be formed, the bags, including the top seals, are formed from the web and severed to form individual bags in which an end portion of the elongate element protrudes through the top seal.
7. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6, in which the tail portions are concentrained to line with the top seal areas of the bags.
8. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6, in which the lengths of elongate element are attached to the lengths of zipper at the same time as the lengths of zipper are applied to the web.

9. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6, in which the tail portions are concertinaed to line with the top seal areas of the bags attached to the lengths of zipper at the same time as the lengths of zipper are applied to the web.

10. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6, in which the lengths of elongate element are positioned to lie to the sides of the respective zipper strips that are adjacent the respective top seals.

11. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6, in which the elongate elements are coated with a peel seal material.

12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6, in which the elongate element comprises a strip, tape or string.

13.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) A reclosable bag having a reclosable zipper and a top seal which is openable to gain access to the zipper, the bag having an elongate tear element attached to the zipper by a peel-seal material, the elongate tear element extends through the top seal to protrude from the top of the bag and which can be grasped and pulled to open the top seal and enable access to be gained to the reclosable zipper.